

REMARKS

Claims 11-16 are currently pending in the instant application and claims 1-10 have been canceled.

Applicants are submitting herein replacement sheets for Figures 12 and 13. Applicants respectfully request entry of these replacement sheets.

Support for newly presented claim 11 and 12 can be found in the disclosure, for example at ¶¶[0039] and [0042] as well as in Figures 11 and 14.

Claims 1-4 and 7-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,822,683 to Clouse (hereinafter “Clouse”) and claims 5 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Clouse in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,405,698 to Steinmetz (hereinafter “Steinmetz”). In response, Applicants have canceled claims 1-10 and are submitting herein new claims 11-16.

New claims 11 and 12 recite features of the invention that are believed to distinguish over the prior art of record.

In particular, as to claim 11, because the tappet body portion includes the body portion and the cylindrical portion it is possible to enhance the sliding stability of the tappet structural body, to prevent an incline of the tappet structural body and to decrease damages on an inner surface of the pump housing. Additionally, because the spring seat is housed inside of the slide portion, it is possible to prevent damage to the inner surface of the pump housing if the spring seat is displaced.

In addition, because the tappet structural body includes the plate-like restricting means, it is possible to surely restrict the movement of the roller in the rotary axis direction. Accordingly, it is possible to prevent damage on the inner surface of the pump

housing caused by a roller or a roller pin even when the fuel supply pump is rotated at a high speed for a long time.

Furthermore, because the plate-like restricting means is constituted by extending a portion of the peripheral portion of a spring seat, the predetermined restricting means can be easily provided without increasing the number of parts which constitute the tappet structural body.

Finally, because the gap is formed around the plate-like restricting means in the insertion hole, it is possible to allow lubricant or the like to easily reciprocate between the spring holding chamber and the cam chamber by way of the gap. Accordingly, it is possible to prevent a rise of a pressure in the spring holding chamber, and to decrease a driving torque of the fuel supply pump.

Claim 12 has the functions and effects set forth in claim 11 but also has additional functions and effects. In particular, because the plate-like restricting means which can be inserted in the insertion hole of the tappet body portion without spreading a distance of each of the plate-like restricting means is used, it is possible to easily assemble the tappet structural body and the fuel supply pump.

Claims 11 and 12 are believed to distinguish over the prior art of record for at least the following reasons:

1) Clouse discloses a cylindrical member 27 which has a semi-cylindrical bore 31 which rotatably mounts a roller bearing 32 therein on the lower end. However, the cylindrical member 27 does not have the slide portion recited in claims 11 and 12 which extends upwardly from an end portion of an upper surface of the body portion. Therefore, a clip retaining means 40 cannot be housed inside of the cylindrical member 27. So, in Clouse it is necessary that the clip retaining member 40 is fixed by foot portions 44 and 45 of leg portions 42 and 43 which have upper, arcuate edges 46 for

preventing a damage of the inner surface of the pump housing if the spring seat is displaced. Therefore, Clouse does not describe or suggest feature a) as recited in the claimed invention.

2) Clouse discloses a clip retaining means 40 for restraining axial displacement of roller bearing 32 relative to member 27. However, Clouse also discloses the spring seat portion which is formed on the middle of the outer surface of the plunger 14 in Figure 1. It is clear that the clip retaining means 40 is different from the spring seat. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Clouse does not disclose feature d) of the claimed invention.

3) As mentioned above, the cylindrical member 27 of Clouse does not have a slide portion which extends upwardly from an end portion of an upper surface of the body portion. Additionally, a pair of diametrically opposed leg portions 42 and 43 which extend downwardly from the ring portion 41 are not inserted in an insertion hole which is formed from an inside of the slide portion to an outside of the tappet body portion. Therefore, the construction of the cylindrical member 27 and the clip relating means 40 is much different from the element e) of the presently claimed invention. Specifically, the leg portions 42 and 43 of the clip retaining means 40 have foot portions 44 and 45 which have upper, arcuate edges 46. Therefore, the clip retaining means 40 and the cylindrical member 27 cannot assemble without spreading a distance of each of the leg portions 42 and 43.

For all of these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that Clouse does not describe or suggest all of the features of the claimed invention.

Furthermore Steinmetz does not cure the deficiencies of Clouse because Steinmetz describes a wire-like restricting means instead of the plate-like restricting means described and claimed by Applicants. In addition, Steinmetz does not describe or suggest a plate-like restricting means at all, and the construction of a roller tappet is much

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different from the tappet structural body described and claimed in the present invention. Thus, it is clear that Steinmetz also does not disclose all of the elements recited in claims 11 and 12 of the present invention and that the roller tappet of Steinmetz cannot meet the functions and effects of the invention described and claimed herein.

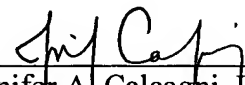
Applicants respectfully submit that neither Clouse nor Steinmetz, alone or in combination, describe or suggest all of the features of the claimed invention. Claims 11-16 are therefore believed to distinguish over the prior art of record and notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

CONCLUSION

Applicant believes that the foregoing is a full and complete response to the Office action of record. Accordingly, an early and favorable reconsideration of the rejection of the claims is requested. Applicants believe that claims 11-16 are now in condition for allowance and an indication of allowability and an early Notice of Allowance of all of the claims is respectfully requested.

If Examiner feels that a telephonic interview would be helpful, he is requested to call the undersigned at (203) 575-2648 prior to issuance of the next Office action.

Respectfully submitted,

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